

# SENATE NO. 2043

## **Resolve** RELATIVE TO DRIVER IMPAIRMENT

1   RESOLVED, that the automobile is typically the most important method of transportation for adults  
2   in the Commonwealth, a license to operate and the ability to drive often is a key element in  
3   maintaining independence. However, individual driving must be balanced with public safety. A range  
4   of medical problems can affect the ability of adults to drive safely; cognitive impairment plays an  
5   increasingly important role in ones ability to operate a motor vehicle, other medical conditions, visual  
6   problems, motor problems, flexibility limitations contribute to a persons ability to safely operate a  
7   motor vehicle.

8   Therefore a special commission is hereby established for the purpose of making an investigation and  
9   study into current laws and regulations relative to the right to have a license to operate and how  
10   cognitive impairment may affect that right to operate. Said commission shall consist of 3 members of  
11   the Senate appointed by the Senate President; 3 members of the House of Representatives appointed  
12   by the Speaker of the House; the Registrar of Motor Vehicles or their designee; the Secretary of Elder  
13   Affairs or their designee; 2 persons to be appointed by the governor 1 of whom shall be a  
14   representative of AARP of Massachusetts, and one of whom shall be a consumer, a resident of the

15 commonwealth of driving age and holding a valid drivers license; 2 persons to be appointed by the  
16 Speaker of the House, one of whom shall be a member of the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society  
17 specializing in Geriatric psychiatry, one of whom shall be a member for the Massachusetts Association  
18 for Occupational Therapy; 2 persons appointed by the President of the Senate one of whom shall be a  
19 member of the Massachusetts Medical Society specializing in brain injuries and one of whom shall  
20 represent the auto insurance industry.

21 Said commissions investigation and review shall include but not be limited to the following:

22 Who may report to the to the registry of motor vehicles a drivers impairment; What format and  
23 information must that communication include and recommendations to protect the reporter from civil  
24 liability;

25 Development of programs within the registry to evaluate the impaired driver including standards of  
26 what is an adequate evaluation; formation of multidisciplinary teams of psychiatrist,  
27 neuropsychologist, OT, neurologist, social worker, and driving instructor to assist in the development  
28 of standards as well as in the conducting of the evaluation;

29 Auto insurance discounts to senior drivers;

30 Dissemination and availability of alternative means of transportation for seniors;

31 Driver reeducation programs cost, availability or discounts;

32 Driving rehabilitation specialists, cost and availability;

33 Health or auto insurance reimbursement for driver reeducation or rehabilitation programs;

34 Process and testing for certain drivers before renewal of a license including online and length of  
35 renewal.

36 SECTION 2. Said Commission may consult with any experts it deems necessary particularly  
37 neuropsychologists, driving rehabilitation specialists, physicians, social workers, occupational  
38 therapists, psychiatrists

39 Said commission shall make its recommendation in the form of legislation no later than December 31,  
40 2007 and shall file such with the clerk of the Senate and the clerk of the House.